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**Sent:** Friday, July 22, 2005 6:04 PM  
**To:** National List  
**Subject:** NOP Sunset Review

**Attachments:** ATTACHMENT.TXT

Dear Sirs,

Please consider the following comment.

The [letter](#) dated February 6, 2004 written by Arthur L. Neal (Agricultural Marketing Specialist of NOP) to Acadian Seaplants, which had petitioned for the use of Phosphoric acid as pH adjustment agent, states " *We have determined that the substance, for the specific petitioned use, does not have to be petitioned because its use as a pH adjuster in aquatic plant extracts is currently not prohibited through the inclusion of "aquatic plant extracts" in section 205.601(j)(1) of the National Organic Standards.*"

I have recently enquired OMRI about the use of Phosphoric acid as pH adjustment agent in a seaweed based product and their answer has been: "*The letter from Arthur Neal at the NOP, in OMRI's view, appears to contradict the regulatory text of the National Organic Program. In such cases, OMRI defers to the regulatory text rather than a letter written by the Program staff. In OMRI's view, phosphoric acid is a synthetic substance which does not appear on the National List at 205.601: "Synthetic substances allowed for use of organic crop production." Therefore, its use is not permitted anywhere in organic crop production, except as a pH adjustment for fish fertilizers 205601(j)(7)*"

It would be helpful if NOP could better clarify the status of phosphoric acid as pH adjustment agent with aquatic plant extracts.

Thank you and kind regards

**Stefano Urbani**

(Managing Director)

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